

CLAIMS

1. An electronic device adapted to be detachably mounted to main equipment for exchanging optional data with the main equipment and for executing optional functions, said electronic device comprising:

a data memory unit;

software data for a plurality of drivers stored in said data memory unit, said software data being operable to execute the optional functions with regard to a plurality of computer operating environments, respectively; and

an output unit operable to output said software data from said data memory unit to the main equipment.

2. The electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said software data are stored in said data memory unit using a file format.

3. The electronic device as defined in claim 1, wherein storage addresses corresponding to keywords identifying said plurality of drivers are stored at leaders of address spaces in said data memory unit, and said software data are stored in said storage addresses corresponding to said keywords.

4. An electronic apparatus, comprising:

a main apparatus having a specific computer operating environment; and

an electronic device detachably mounted to said main apparatus for exchanging optional data with said main apparatus and for executing optional functions, said electronic device including a data memory unit, software data for a plurality of drivers stored in said data memory unit, said software data being operable to execute said optional functions with regard to a plurality of computer operating environments, respectively;

said main apparatus including an identification

unit operable to identify said software data stored in said data memory unit of said electronic device, and to obtain a selected one of said software data corresponding to said specific computer operating environment.

5. The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said software data are stored in said data memory using a file format, and said identification unit identifies said selected one of said software data using said file format.

6. The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein storage addresses corresponding to keywords identifying said plurality of drivers are stored at leaders of address spaces in said data memory unit, said software data are stored in said storage addresses corresponding to said keywords, and said identification unit identifies said selected one of said software data on the basis of said keywords.

7. In a main apparatus having an electronic device detachably mounted thereto, said main apparatus having a specific computer operating environment, a method of obtaining driver software data operable to execute optional functions of the electronic device, comprising:

storing in said electronic device software data for a plurality of drivers, said software data being operable to execute the optional functions with regard to a plurality of computer operating environments, respectively;

identifying said software data stored in said electronic device; and

transferring a selected one of said software data corresponding to said specific computer operating environment from said electronic device to said main apparatus.

8. The method of obtaining driver software data as claimed in claim 7, wherein said storing step includes storing

said software data in said electronic device using a file format, and the transferring step transfers said selected one of said software data based on said file format.

9. The method of obtaining driver software data as claimed in claim 7, wherein said storing step includes storing storage addresses corresponding to keywords identifying said plurality of drivers at leaders of address spaces in said electronic device, and storing said software data in said storage addresses corresponding to said keywords, and wherein said identification step includes identifying said selected one of said software data on the basis of said keywords.